

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /085 W

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P 151530Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3402

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. TRADE ACT

REF; SANTO DOMINGO 1040 OF MARCH 6, 1975

1. IN REFTEL EMBASSY REPORTED THAT FERNANDO PERICHE VIDAL, DIRECTOR OF GODR CENTER FOR EXPORT PROMOTION (CEDOPEX), WAS INQUIRING ABOUT INTERPRETATION OF TRADE REFORM ACT (TRA), AND THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS HE WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKING WHETHER PUERTO RICAN PRODUCTION IS CONSIDERED PART OF US PRODUCTION IN CALCULATING PERCENTAGE IMPORT OF A US-PRODUCED ITEM OR IN TREATING INSTANCES OF NO US DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF AN ITEM AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 504(D).

2. LOCAL PRESS HAS JUST PUBLISHED LETTER OF MARCH 4 FROM PERICHE TO DOMINICAN EXPORT ASSOCIATION IN WHICH PERICHE INTERPRETS SECTION 504 AS DENYING TARIFF PREFERENCES TO VARIOUS DOMINICAN PRODUCTS. PERICHE IS NOW OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND ORALLY OR IN WRITING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT IT UNDERSTANDS TO BE HIS POINTS.

3. IN THE LETTER, PERICHE SAYS THAT THE FOLLOWING DOMINICAN PRODUCTS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM TARIFF PREFERENCES BECAUSE DOMINICAN SHARE OF

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US IMPORTS OF THESE ITEMS (HIS FIGURES GIVEN BELOW AFTER EACH

ITEM) REPRESENTS MORE THAN 50 PERCENT: AVOCADOS (98 PERCENT), PAPAYAS (54 PERCENT), CANNED PIGEON PEAS (81 PERCENT), FRIED PLANTAIN CHIPS (84 PERCENT); FRUIT PULP (FRUTAS PULPAS)(57 PERCENT); SWEET CACAO (CACAO DULCE) (89 PERCENT); ORANGE PASTE (75 PERCENT) AND YAUTIA (92 PERCENT).

4. EMBASSY RECORDS AND PUBLICATIONS DO NOT GIVE SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF US IMPORT STATISTICS TO ENABLE IT TO VERIFY ACCURACY OF THESE STATEMENTS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHETHER (1) DOMINICAN SHARE OF US IMPORTS OF ABOVE ENUMERATED ITEMS AMOUNT TO 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF EACH ITEM, (2) IMPORTS INTO PUERTO RICO FIGURE IN US GLOBAL IMPORT STATISTICS, AND (3) PUERTO RICAN PRODUCTION OF AN ITEM IS CONSIDERED US DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF THAT ITEM FOR PUPOSES OF SECTION (504(D). THE LATTER PERTAINS PARTICULARLY TO THE PHRASE IN THAT SECTION WHICH READS QUOTE IS NOT PRODUCED ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT IN THE US. UNQUOTE ACCORDING TO PERICHE, FOR EXAMPLE, PIGEON PEAS AND SOME OF THESE OTHER ITEMS ARE PRODUCED IN PUERTO RICO BUT NOT THE US. WHETHER DOMINICAN EXPORTS OF THESE ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO US DUTY DEPENDS IN SUCH CASES ON WHETHER PUERTO RICAN PRODUCTION IS CONSIDERED AS PRODUCED QUOTE IN THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE. HURWITCH UNQUO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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